## CLAIMS

A method of treating asthma in an individual with albuterol, while reducing side effects associated with albuterol, comprising administering to the individual a quantity of an optically pure R(-) isomer of albuterol sufficient to result in bronchodilation, said R isomer being substantially free of its S(+) isomer.

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10 2. A method of Claim 1 wherein the amount of the R(-) isomer of albuterol is greater than approximately 90% by weight.

3. A method of Claim 2 wherein the amount of the R(-) isomer of albuterol is greater than 99% by weight. I total albuterol

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4. A method of Claim 1 comprising administering to the individual by inhalation from approximately 30 mcg to approximately 90 mcg of the R(-) isomer of albuterol per dose.

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5. A method of Claim 1 comprising orally administering to the individual from approximately 1 mg to approximately 8 mg of the R(-) isomer of albuterol two to four times

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25 daily.

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A method of treating asthma in an individual with albuterol, while reducing side effects associated with albuterol, comprising administering to the individual a quantity of an optically pure R(-) isomer of albuterol sufficient to result in bronchodilation and at least one additional drug.

7. A method of Claim 6 wherein the additional drug is selected from the group consisting of: bronchodilators, antihistamines and analgesics.

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A method of Claim wherein the analgesic is selected from the group consisting of: aspirin, acetaminophen and ibuprofen.

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- 9. A composition comprising an optically pure R(-) isomer of albuterol and at least one additional drug.
- 10. A composition of Claim of containing at least 90% by weight of the D(-) isomer of albuterol.
- 11. A composition of Claim 10 containing at least 20 99% by weight of the R(-) isomer of albuterol.
  - 12. A composition of Claim 9 wherein the additional drug is selected from the group consisting of: bronchodilators, antihistamines and analgesics.

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